

MAUNDY THURSDAY, YEAR C, APRIL 14, 2022

At the end of the second Star Trek movie, *The Wrath of Khan*, Mr. Spock sacrifices himself to save the Enterprise and her crew. As he is dying from radiation exposure, he reaches up and touches Dr. McCoy's face and in a variation of what Trekkies know as "the vulcan mind meld" he links his consciousness with McCoy's and utters a single word, "Remember," as he dies.

That scene with Leonard Nimoy's deep gravelly voice saying, "Remember" always comes back to me when I think about Maundy Thursday because all of our rituals and actions tonight are about exactly that, remembering. To remember is to bring something to mind, to look back on something in the past. It can be an event, or feeling, or experience. Remembering has the power to take the past and bring it forward into the present moment. And by remembering the past, our present lives can be changed forever. Tonight, we remember.

In the washing of the disciples' feet to the sharing of the Passover meal Jesus actions this night set the stage and tone for what, we as Christians, are to remember and emulate in our own lives. It is Jesus' actions this night that form a framework for our faith. Taking the form of a servant, washing their feet, Jesus calls them to something new and yes, rather shocking. He calls them to an act of humility out of love as a master would never stoop to wash his disciples' feet. So, he was also teaching them about vulnerability and about opening themselves up to others.

Can you imagine what kind of a world we would live in if the powerful washed the feet of the homeless; if the wealthy washed the feet of the poor; if the young washed the feet of the elderly? That's the vulnerability Jesus demonstrates for us and implores us to follow. This is the love that Jesus has for us.

It's a love that breathes new life into relationships that are broken. It's a love that not only repairs and restores, but also heals, transforms, and strengthens. As he shared a last meal and took the role of a servant, Jesus showed his disciples how to maintain and remain in relationship with him, with each other, and with those he came to serve even after he would no longer be with them. A new normal was about to begin.

If we remember nothing else, we know that we are always united by bonds of faith, and hope, and love. This night, we remember what Jesus wanted his disciples to understand, that real love, and real faith, and real discipleship means one thing and one thing alone. It means servanthood rooted in love. Just as Jesus had told them earlier, "I am among you as one who serves," he now puts these words to action. Even for us over two thousand years later, nothing has really changed about what real love is, and how Jesus calls us to demonstrate it to others. Indeed, if we want to know what it means to follow Jesus, the mandate is clear. It means being willing to serve others with the open heart of love. And when we learn to serve, we learn to live.

During this liturgy I invite you to come forward and have your feet washed. I invite you to break bread and share the cup of wine. I invite you to forgive and be forgiven. So come and experience Christ's love anew. Come and remember whose you are; come and remember who we all are called to be. Come and remember. Amen